

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 01910 251113Z

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3482

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 1910

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY, IS, XF

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF LAHORE SUMMIT ON MIDDLE EAST
NEGOTIATIONS

1. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER THIS MESSAGE
SHOULD BE PASSED TO THE SECRETARY.

2. IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE WE AND OTHERS CAN
ASSESS FULL IMPACT OF LAHORE SUMMIT ABOUT WHICH I STILL
HAVE QUALMS OF UNCERTAINTY AS TO HOW, AND HOW MUCH, IT
MIGHT AFFECT THE FUTURE. AS FAR AS THE SPEECHES WERE
CONCERNED, IT APPEARS SO FAR THAT THERE WAS A SURPRISING
LACK OF INVECTIVES THROWN PUBLICLY AT THE U.S. OVER THE
EXTENT OF OUR SUPPORT OF ISRAEL, ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT DO
WELL IN ONE PARAGRAPH OF ONE RESOLUTION. IN THE LONG
RUN ONE CAN WONDER WHETHER THE SUMMIT MAY MAKE THE
TASK OF SECURING FULL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST
MORE DIFFICULT, AT LEAST UNLESS ISRAEL CAN BE INDUCED
TO MAKE CONSIDERABLE CONCESSIONS TO OBTAIN PERMANENT
PEACE. I WOULD DOUBT, FOR INSTANCE, THAT ANY ARAB
STATE IN THE NEAR FUTURE WOULD MOVE AWAY FROM THE
AGREED MUSLIM POSITION ON JERUSALEM. THE CONFERENCE
CLEARLY DID NOT HOWEVER DEGENERATE INTO A "THROW
ISRAEL INTO THE SEA" ATMOSPHERE WHICH MIGHT HAVE
HAPPENED IN PAST YEARS.

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 01910 251113Z

3. ONE LOOKS FOR BRIGHT SPOTS AND THERE MAY BE SOME, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE NEAR FUTURE. THE BRIGHTEST SPOT SEEMS TO BE THE MANNER IN WHICH SADAT EMERGED FROM THE CONFERENCE AS A STRONG LEADER WHO RECEIVED, AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL NOW, RECOGNITION AND AFFECTION FROM ALL QUARTERS. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, AND HE MUST BE PERSONALLY PLEASED. HAD HE RECEIVED CRITICISM FOR HIS PAST BOLD MOVES THINGS WOULD HAVE LOOKED GLOOMY INDEED. AS IT TURNED OUT IN THE PRE-CONFERENCE DAYS CRITICISM OF HIM SEEMED TO HAVE STOPPED FROM ANY QUARTER AND EVEN EXTREMISTS LIKE QADHAFI CAME TO APOLOGIZE. SADAT HAD TAKEN THE RISK OF BEING THE FIRST TO ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF DIRECT TALKS WITH THE ISRAELIS AND DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES AND CLEARLY GOT AWAY WITH IT WITH ENTIRE MOSLEM WORLD.

4. ONE WOULD HOPE THIS WOULD HAVE ITS EFFECT ON ASAD OF SYRIA. IT WOULD APPEAR FROM HERE THAT HE CAN NOW FOLLOW SADAT'S LEAD WITHOUT FEAR OF CRITICISM FROM ANY QUARTERS OUTSIDE HIS BORDERS. WE ARE TOO FAR AWAY TO ANALYZE THIS IN ANY GREATER DEPTH, BUT HOPE THE ABOVE THOUGHT MAY BE INTERESTING AND USEFUL. BYROADE

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